

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or)
Revocation of the Educator)
Certificate of Philip Steven Harris,)
Certificate 204086)

CONSENT ORDER OF
SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 14, 2007. On September 19, 2007, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent notice to Philip Steven Harris of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 204086 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Upon receipt of the notice, Harris agreed to waive his right to a hearing and to accept a period of suspension of his certificate. After considering the information presented by the Department, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Harris' certificate under the agreed-upon terms as outlined in this Consent Order of Suspension.

Accepted:
PSH
Initial here

12/10/07
Date

Philip
Steven
Harris
#204086

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Harris holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate in English and has over seven years of teaching experience. He was employed by the Lancaster County School District for the 2006-2007 school year as a drama teacher at South Middle School. Mr. Harris resigned his employment, effective May 21, 2007, following an investigation into allegations that he was admittedly under the influence of alcohol at work.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2006). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). After considering the information presented by the Department, the State Board concludes that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Philip Steven Harris for a period of twelve months through October 9, 2008, on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. Accordingly, the State Board issues this Consent Order of Suspension. If Mr. Harris wishes to have his certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, he must submit to the Department's Office of General Counsel written verification from a licensed healthcare professional, who specializes in substance abuse, that he has successfully completed the recommended course of treatment, is drug and alcohol free, and is fit to return to teaching.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: John E. Tindal
John E. Tindal, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
November 14, 2007

I, Philip Steven Harris, SC Teaching Certificate #204086, have read the Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of two pages, and I freely and voluntarily agree to the terms set forth therein. I understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on Wednesday, November 14, 2007.

Philip Steven Harris
Signature

10/10/07
Date